

SENATE NO. 1326

AN ACT RELATIVE TO A NURSE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER AT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled,
And by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. The first paragraph of section 5 of chapter 17 of the General laws, as appearing in
2 the 1998 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting before the first sentence the following
3 sentences: - The commissioner shall, with the approval of the public health council, designate a
4 nurse deputy commissioner who is a registered nurse. Said nurse deputy commissioner shall be
5 a graduate of an accredited four-year college or university nursing program, shall have a
6 master's degree in public health or a related field and shall have not less than five years of
7 administrative experience of which two years shall have been in the organization, management
8 or delivery of health care services. The nurse deputy commissioner shall be subject to chapter
9 thirty-one and in addition to the performance of such duties as may be prescribed by the
10 commissioner shall, under the supervision of the commissioner, be responsible for statewide
11 planning, policy development and the coordination of clinical decision-making, communication
12 and resource management for district health officers and programs within divisions of the
13 department, including but not limited to; the division of family and community health, the

14 division of health care quality, the division of communicable and venereal diseases, the division
15 of alcoholism, the division of drug rehabilitation and the division of food and drugs.

16 SECTION 2. Section 5 of chapter 17 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 1998 Official
17 Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 1, the words “The commissioner may,” and
18 inserting in place thereof the words: - In addition to said nurse deputy commissioner, the
19 commissioner may,